5530 Eastbourne Drive
Springfield, VA 22151
11 February 1992

Mr. Harold Weisberg
7627 Old Receiver Road
Frederick, MD 21702

Dear Mr. Weisberg:

I trust this letter finds you and Mrs. Weisberg weathering this little cold snap well and in good health.

I wanted to outline an idea that has come into my mind as a result of our recent conversation. I shall attempt to be as succinct as possible but as I'm just beginning to wrestle with this concept... please bear with me if some of what follows seems disjointed:

I have been intrigued by your description of the total failure of the governmental institutions involved in the events associated with the assassination and your portrayal of breakdowns at every level in the bureaucratic structures of the key agencies and the Warren Commission (WC) staff itself. We talked about Nuremburg and the concept of...*don't blame me I was just doing my job*...and I began to wonder...what if they really did *just do their jobs*?

I'll attempt to outline my thoughts...

1. The Secret Service/FBI botches the handling of the tape of the Somersett-Milteer conversation from Miami...neither Lawson nor Sorrels are aware of it...they set up a lousy route which *breaks all the rules*...they party in the Cellar Club the night before the murder, again *breaking all the rules*.

2. The President is killed.

3. The media establishes a *beachhead* on the third floor of the Dallas police department...a vantage point they would not relinquish.

4. Curry returns from Love Field and finds, in his words...*pandemonium* and does nothing....says Wade okayed it...Wade says he didn't The media are running amok inside the police department. The police respond with permitting access to Oswald - making a shambles of his 6th & 14th amendment rights -and releasing every rumor, innuendo, and shred of *evidence* almost as fast as they obtain it.

5. Media releases everything and then some...media is acting as a surrogate

judicial forum...every newscast and newspaper trumpets Oswald's guilt...Commie, defector, low rent nut has killed the President...its in the papers...it must be true...Curry shows the weapon and Oswald off to the world...the media are like sharks in a feeding frenzy...

6. By Sunday AM the media inertia has becoming self-sustaining and when Oswald is killed Hoover, Katzenbach, et.al., see a way to put this baby to bed...no Oswald, no trial, and no severe public recriminations against the agencies that had screwed up...hence the Hoover-Johnson conversation and the Katzenbach memo of the 25th...

7. Johnson buys the Katzenbach memo and births the WC...its orders are precisely that which is contained in the Katzenbach memo...convince us that Oswald did it...don't investigate the crime...simply prove Oswald did it...don't look for evidence to the contrary because there is none...Oswald did it...

8. WC does what it was established to do...prove Oswald did it...the media blitz gave the FBI/Secret Service an out and they took advantage of it...the WC at the working level of the staff *just followed orders*...prove Oswald did it...lousy job notwithstanding...{the Executive session transcripts fit in here somewhere}

9. In sum, federal agencies screw up the protection responsibility...media convicts Oswald of the crime...start the snowball rolling down the hill...federal agencies sense an out with a dead assassin...they foster the idea of the WC...Johnson buys it and forms WC...WC, at the working level follow orders and do their job - which is to prove Oswald did it...so they lied a little...the cause was good and after all they may have actually believed it themselves (probably impossible but...???)...the WC, at the working level, is itself a perfect paradigm of the Nuremburg syndrome...no real *CONSPIRACY* at the working level...they believed their own tripe...that may explain the attitudes of Ford, Belin, and Specter, et. al....

If you've stayed with me this far I'm not certain where this goes but it separates the events into two compartments...in the first instance, that of the crime...in the second, the bureaucracy at work doing what it does best...cover its ass...the result is the appearance of a massive cover-up when examined, as you have done...but, at the working level, was it?, in the true sense of the word conspiracy...or can it better be described as...the system...inspired and set off by the media... nurtured by a key few...responsive to the inertia of the media and not looking for the truth but rather trying to prove the media correct???

This may seem very Polyannish at first blush...and perhaps it is...but something tells me as I read the testimony...that all of these folks aren't crooks...even honest folks can be hoodwinked...look at the tele-evangelists...they didn't steal MY money!!!

This maybe an SOS… I'm not certain…your comments and counsel would be deeply appreciated.

I hope you've been able to follow the stream of thought {or whatever best describes the above}…

Happy Valentine's Day

Sincerely,

John W. Masland